

Page 1, replace the paragraph beginning on line 18 as follows:

B3
--A device with which this can be done is known from EP
0 192 921 B1 (= US 4 704 512 A). --

Page 2, line 6, add the section heading as follows:

B4
--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

~~Page 2, delete lines 13-18.~~

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 20 as follows:

B5
--In the inventive process, before the welding process, on the ends of the hollow section strips to be joined to one another (or the ends of a hollow section strip formed into a frame-like spacer) on at least one surface of the hollow section strip edges are produced which are set back relative to the end faces. Therefore when the hollow section strips are joined or the ends of a hollow section strip are joined to one another, on the side on which there were back-set edges, a weld which is visible from the outside is no longer formed.--

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 31 as follows:

B6
--It is also advantageous in the inventive process that a coating which is provided anyway on the side of the hollow section strip provided with the set-back edge (varnishing or in aluminum hollow section strips a coating produced by anodizing) remains undamaged also in the area of the weld.--

Page 3, line 16, add the section heading as follows:

B7
--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning on line 15 as follows:

B8
--Other details, features and advantages of the invention result from the following description of one embodiment of the inventive process using the drawings.--

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning on line 23 as follows:

B9
--Figure 2 shows the ends of a hollow section strip prepared for executing the inventive process in an oblique view,--

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning on line 27 as follows:

B10
--Figure 3 shows in a lengthwise section the ends of hollow section strips prepared for executing the inventive process,--

Page 3, line 36, add the section heading as follows:

B11
--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 4, replace the paragraph beginning on line 12 as follows:

B12
--In the inventive process, the ends of the hollow section strip 1 to be joined to one another, when the ends of the hollow section strip 1 which are bent into a frame-like spacer are to be joined to one another, or the ends of two hollow section strips 1 which are to be joined to one another by welding in order to form a longer hollow section strip, before executing the welding process are each provided with an edge 7 which is set back relative to the end faces 5. These edges 7 are produced at least in the surface 2 which forms the inner surface in the spacer frame. The edges 7 extend over the entire width of the surface 2 of the hollow section strip 1.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 25 as follows:

B13
--Figure 4 shows in a lengthwise section the result of the inventive welding process for joining the ends of two hollow section strips 1 (or a hollow section strip 1 in a spacer frame). It can be seen that the edges 7 adjoin one another and that a welding bead is not visible there from the outside.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph on line 32 as follows:

B14
--In principle it is irrelevant for the inventive process how the edges 7 which are set back over the end faces 5 of the hollow section strips 1 to be joined to one another are made. In addition to the steps 6 shown in Figures 2 and 3 the wall of the hollow section strip 1 which forms the surface 2 can also be provided with a groove 11 (Figure 5).--

Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 39, bridging page 6, as follows:

B15
--For reliable joining of hollow section strips 1 or a hollow section strip 1 bent into a spacer frame using the inventive process it is advantageous if the end face 5 of the hollow section strip(s) 1 is made narrower in the area of the set-back edges 7, but still remains, so that in the area of the

B15
wall which forms the surface 2 reliable joining of the hollow section strip(s) 1 is achieved.--

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 as follows:

B16
--In principle, various measures are conceivable for making the edges which are set back relative to the end faces 5 on the ends of the hollow section strip(s) 1 to be joined to one another. Edges which are formed by steps 6 (Figure 3) or grooves 11 (Figure 5) have proven especially advantageous for the successful execution of the inventive process.--

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 22 as follows:

B17
--The inventive process was described above using the example of joining hollow section strips of metal, especially aluminum. Basically the inventive process can also be used for joining hollow section strips of weldable plastic, especially thermoplastic. When hollow section strips of thermoplastic are joined there will be no "welding bead" either due to the edge which is set back on at least one surface after the welding process in the area of this surface, but this surface will be continuous, therefore flat in the area of this weld as well.--
